

**Moran Mourns Former Fort Hayes State University Professor Bill Jellison**

January 21, 2010

I rise today in memory of Bill Jellison--a lifelong Kansan, a revered educator, and my friend. Bill passed away in April of last year at the age of 82, but he will always be remembered for his nearly three decades of service to Fort Hays State University and for his optimism despite adversity.

A native of Lincoln, Kansas, Bill attended Fort Hays State University and received degrees in 1951 and 1952. Following graduation, he taught high school in southwest Kansas along with his wife, Margaret. In 1960, Bill returned to Fort Hays for what was to become a 28-year career. Bill would serve as dean of men, dean of students, and vice president of student affairs. He retired in 1988.

Bill had two passions in life: helping others and the outdoors. During his tenure at Fort Hays, Bill enjoyed assisting students, particularly those from small towns and rural areas. He dedicated his career to ensuring that students achieved success, assisting in any way possible.

In his spare time, Bill loved to hunt and fish with his buddies and inspired others to share in this interest. One of the boys he inspired to hunt was Randy Wood, who is now a columnist for the hunting magazine Horizontal Bowhunter. Randy's father was Bill's friend and hunting buddy, as was Randy once he became old enough to hunt. After Bill's passing, Randy wrote a heartfelt tribute, describing Bill as a ``big man who loved to talk and always had a smile on his face. The sound of his laughter would fill the room."

In 1994, Bill tragically suffered a severe stroke that left him disabled. Though wheelchair bound and no longer able to walk the fields for pheasants, Bill remained optimistic. He kept a bright outlook on life and continued to care about others. After a 15-year struggle, Bill passed away last spring. For those of us blessed to have known him, let us be thankful that God places men like Bill Jellison in our lives. May we always remember and honor him.